

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for managing documents, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a remote user;

providing said user with consulting advice regarding said request based upon data input by said user, said consulting advice including advice on document retrieval costs, document storage strategies, document storage organization, protection of secured documents, or delivery options of documents;

selecting an application service provider from a plurality of application service providers based on said request, wherein said request is not related to said application service provider;

forwarding said request to said application service provider;

providing said application service provider with a user access level that indicates multiple hierarchical levels of access;

receiving information from said application service provider indicating information of a document provided from said application service provider to said user;

formatting said document from said application service provider into a standardized format regardless of which application service provider of said plurality of application service providers is selected;

generating a unified bill from bills received from application service providers; and

transmitting said unified bill to said user.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing said user with said document from said application service provider.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of searching for said document in said application service provider.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of providing said document to said user comprises:

delivering a print out of said document to said user; and
providing said user with a URL of said document.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of providing said document to said user comprises transmitting said document to a user storage device.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of providing said document to said user comprises transmitting said document to a user display device.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

retrieving said document;
formatting said document into a format requested by said user;
providing said user with said document formatted in said formatting step.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the receiving information step comprises receiving the information which is a billing information.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the receiving information step comprises receiving the information which is the document.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the receiving information step comprises receiving the information which is a URL for said document.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) A system for managing documents, comprising:
means for receiving a request from a remote user;
means for providing said user with consulting advice regarding said request based upon data input by said user, said consulting advice including advice on document retrieval costs, document storage strategies, document storage organization, protection of secured documents, or delivery options of documents;

means for selecting an application service provider from a plurality of application service providers based on said request, wherein said request is not related to said application service provider;

means for forwarding said request to said application service provider;

means for providing said application service provider with a user access level that indicates multiple hierarchical levels of access;

means for receiving information from said application service provider indicating information of a document provided from said application service provider to said user;

means for formatting said document from said application service provider into a standardized format regardless of which application service provider of said plurality of application service providers is selected;

means for generating a unified bill from bills received from application service providers; and

means for transmitting said unified bill to said user.

Claim 14 (Original): The system of Claim 13, further comprising means for providing said user with said document from said application service provider.

Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Original): The system of Claim 13, further comprising means for searching for said document in said application service provider.

Claim 17 (Original): The system of Claim 14, wherein the means for providing said user with said document comprises:

means for delivering a print out of said document to said user; and

means for providing said user with a URL of said document.

Claim 18 (Original): The system of Claim 14, wherein the means for providing said user with said document comprises means for transmitting said document to a user storage device.

Claim 19 (Original): The system of Claim 14, wherein the means for providing said user with said document comprises means for transmitting said document to a user display device.

Claim 20 (Original): The system of Claim 13, further comprising:

means for retrieving said document;

means for formatting said document into a format requested by said user; and

means for providing said user with said document formatted in said formatting step.

Claim 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Original): The system of Claim 13, wherein the means for receiving information comprises a means for receiving a billing information.

Claim 23 (Original): The system of Claim 13, wherein the means for receiving information comprises a means for receiving the document.

Claim 24 (Original): The system of Claim 13, wherein the means for receiving information comprises a means for receiving a URL for said document.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A computer program product, comprising:
a computer storage medium and a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for causing a computer to manage documents over a computer network, the computer program code mechanism including:
a first computer code device configured to receive a request from a remote user;
a second computer code device configured to provide said user with consulting advice regarding said request based upon data input by said user, said consulting advice including advice on document retrieval costs, document storage strategies, document storage organization, protection of secured documents, or delivery options of documents;
a third computer code device configured to select an application service provider from a plurality of application service providers based on said request, wherein said request is not related to said application service provider;

a fourth computer code device configured to forward said request to said application service provider along with a user access level providing said application service provider with a user access level that indicates multiple hierarchical levels of access;

a fifth computer code device configured to receive information from said application service provider indicating information of a document provided from said application service provider to said user;

a sixth computer code configured to format said document from said application service provider into a standardized format regardless of which application service provider of said plurality of application service providers is selected;

a seventh computer code device configured to generate a unified bill from bills received from application service providers; and

an eighth computer code device configured to transmit said unified bill to said user.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The computer program product of Claim 25, further comprising a ninth computer code device configured to provide said user with said document from said application service provider.

Claim 27 (Canceled).

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The computer program product of Claim 25, further comprising a ninth computer code device configured to search for said document in said application service provider.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The computer program product of Claim 26, wherein the ninth computer code device comprises:

a tenth computer code device configured to deliver a print out of said document to said user; and

an eleventh computer code device configured to provide said user with a URL of said document.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The computer program product of Claim 26, wherein the ninth computer code device comprises a tenth computer code device configured to transmit said document to a user storage device.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The computer program product of Claim 26, wherein the ninth computer code device comprises a tenth computer code device configured to transmit said document to a user display device.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The computer program product of Claim 25, further comprising:

a ninth computer code device configured to retrieve said document;

a tenth computer code device configured to format said document into a format requested by said user; and

an eleventh computer code device configured to provide said user with said document formatted in said formatting step.

Claim 33 (Canceled).

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The computer program product of Claim 25, wherein the fifth computer code device is configured to receive a billing information.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The computer program product of Claim 25, wherein the fifth computer code device is configured to receive the document.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The computer program product of Claim 25, wherein the fifth computer code device is configured to receive a URL for said document.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): A method for managing documents, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a remote user;

receiving a document, [[and]] storage information and an access level indicating multiple hierarchical levels of access needed to access said document from said user;

providing said user with consulting advice regarding said request based upon data input by said user, said consulting advice including advice on document retrieval costs, document storage strategies, document storage organization, protection of secured documents, or delivery options of documents;

selecting an application service provider from a plurality of application service providers based on said storage information;

transmitting said document, said access level and at least part of said storage information to a storage device of said application service provider;

formatting said document from said application service provider into a standardized format regardless of which application service provider of said plurality of application service providers is selected;

generating a unified bill from bills received from application service providers; and
transmitting said unified bill to said user.

Claim 38 (Original): The method of Claim 37, wherein the step of receiving said document and storage information is performed after a storage time period associated with said document to be transmitted.

Claim 39 (Canceled).

Claim 40 (Original): The method of Claim 37, wherein the step of selecting said application service provider is performed based on a document type for said document.

Claim 41 (Canceled).

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): A system for managing documents, comprising
means for receiving a request from a remote user;
means for receiving a document, [[and]] storage information and an access level
indicating multiple hierarchical levels of access needed to access said document from said user;

means for providing said user with consulting advice regarding said request based upon data input by said user, said consulting advice including advice on document retrieval costs, document storage strategies, document storage organization, protection of secured documents, or delivery options of documents;

means for selecting an application service provider from a plurality of application service providers based on said storage information;

means for transmitting said document, said access level and at least part of said storage information to a storage device of said application service provider;

means for formatting said document from said application service provider into a standardized format regardless of which application service provider of said plurality of application service providers is selected;

means for generating a unified bill from bills received from application service providers; and

means for transmitting said unified bill to said user.

Claim 43 (Original): The system of Claim 42, wherein the means for receiving said document and said storage information is configured to receive said document and said storage information after a storage time period associated with said document to be transmitted.

Claim 44 (Canceled).

Claim 45 (Original): The system of Claim 42, wherein the means for selecting said application service provider is configured to select based on a document type for said document.

Claim 46 (Canceled).

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): A computer program product, comprising:
a computer storage medium and a computer program code mechanism embedded in the computer storage medium for causing a computer to manage documents over a computer network, the computer program code mechanism comprising:

a first computer code device configured to receive a request from a remote user;

a second computer code device configured to receive a document, [[and]] and an access level indicating multiple hierarchical levels of access needed to access said document storage information from said user;

a third computer code device configured to provide said user with consulting advice regarding said request based upon data input by said user, said consulting advice including advice on document retrieval costs, document storage strategies, document storage organization, protection of secured documents, or delivery options of documents;

a fourth computer code device configured to select an application service provider from a plurality of application service providers based on said storage information;

a fifth computer code device configured to transmit said document, said access level and at least part of said storage information to a storage device of said application service provider;

a sixth computer code configured to format said document from said application service provider into a standardized format regardless of which application service provider of said plurality of application service providers is selected;

a seventh computer code device configured to generate a unified bill from bills received from application service providers; and

an eighth computer code device configured to transmit said unified bill to said user.

Claim 48 (Original): The computer program product of Claim 47, wherein the second computer code device is configured to receive said document and storage information after a storage time period associated with said document to be transmitted.

Claim 49 (Canceled).

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): The computer program product of Claim 47, wherein the fourth computer code device is configured to select said application service provider based on a document type for said document.

Claim 51-53 (Canceled).

Claim 54 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the consulting advice provided to said user includes advice on document search strategies, or updating of documents.

Claim 55 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is obtained via a user interaction device by said user in response to a series of questions.

Claim 56 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is generated based upon previously acquired data from said user.

Claim 57 (Canceled).

Claim 58 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 13, wherein the consulting advice provided to said user includes advice on document search strategies, or updating of documents.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 13, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is obtained via a user interaction device by said user in response to a series of questions.

Claim 60 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 13, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is generated based upon previously acquired data from said user.

Claim 61 (Canceled).

Claim 62 (Previously Presented): The computer program product of Claim 25, wherein the consulting advice provided to said user includes advice on document search strategies, or updating of documents.

Claim 63 (Previously Presented): The computer program product of Claim 25, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is obtained via a user interaction device by said user in response to a series of questions.

Claim 64 (Previously Presented): The computer program product of Claim 25, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is generated based upon previously acquired data from said user.

Claim 65 (Canceled).

Claim 66 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 37, wherein the consulting advice provided to said user includes advice on document search strategies, or updating of documents.

Claim 67 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 37, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is obtained via a user interaction device by said user in response to a series of questions.

Claim 68 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 37, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is generated based upon previously acquired data from said user.

Claim 69 (Canceled).

Claim 70 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 42, wherein the consulting advice provided to said user includes advice on document search strategies, or updating of documents.

Claim 71 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 42, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is obtained via a user interaction device by said user in response to a series of questions.

Claim 72 (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 42, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is generated based upon previously acquired data from said user.

Claim 73 (Canceled).

Claim 74 (Previously Presented): The computer program product of Claim 73, wherein the consulting advice provided to said user includes advice on document search strategies, and updating of documents.

Claim 75 (Previously Presented): The computer program product of Claim 47, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is obtained via a user interaction device by said user in response to a series of questions.

Claim 76 (Previously Presented): The computer program product of Claim 47, wherein the data input by said user upon which the consulting advice is provided is generated based upon previously acquired data from said user.